



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 23, 2008
Week Ending: June 22, 2008
CWP WA-CW2308

Eastern Soil Conditions Remain Dry as Weather Warms Up While Wheat Heads Out

Field Crops

Days suitable for field work were 6.6. Moderate temperatures were reported in eastern grain growing counties. Many counties were still behind in moisture, and the cooler temperatures were an asset as the heading of wheat and barley grains continued. Whitman County reported rainfall totals were near normal for June only. Alfalfa growers continued to lay down their first cutting, and quality appeared to be off, given the lateness of the cutting due to cool conditions. On the west side, cannery pea fields looked good and Christmas tree growers reported twig aphid infestations in Grand fir.

Fruits and Vegetables

In the Yakima Valley, final estimates of the cherry harvest size reduction due to the April freeze were not yet available, but conditions were ideal for the reduced cherry harvest and work was progressing. Apples were progressing nicely with fruit size in the lower Yakima Valley between 45 to 55 mm diameter. Hops were cresting the top wires of trellis systems. Snohomish County reported raspberry bloom was ending. Strawberry harvest was late but expected to start soon. Honey flow for blackberries was expected to begin soon, but harvest was expected to be delayed.

Livestock and Shellfish

Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 17% poor, 45% fair and 37% good. On the east side, Walla Walla County reported some high mountain pastures still had snow, preventing cattle from being turned out to pasture. Counties at lower elevations were driving cattle to mountain pastures. Shellfish growers continued harvesting oysters and clams but were concerned with potential seed shortages due to a new bacterial disease plaguing west coast hatcheries.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.6
Last Week	5.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	25	67	4
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	4	24	69	3
Subsoil	7	36	57	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	5	26	69	0
Irrigation Water	0	0	95	5
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	5	92	1
Hay & Roughage	17	33	46	4

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2007	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Emerged	100	99	100	100
Spring Wheat Headed	51	21	60	65
Winter Wheat Headed	91	74	95	96
Barley Emerged	100	97	100	100
Barley Headed	45	21	69	61
Field Corn Planted	99	96	100	100
Field Corn Emerged	95	85	97	97
Potatoes Planted	98	97	100	98
Potatoes Emerged	92	90	100	100
Proc. Green Peas Planted	100	95	100	100
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	5	NA	14	13
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	81	66	90	92
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	1	NA	16	12

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	4	13	37	42	4
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	2	8	79	11
Spring Wheat Dryland	4	16	56	24	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	3	13	68	16
Barley Dryland	2	9	54	35	0
Barley Irrigated	0	6	48	20	26
Potatoes	0	5	23	72	0
Corn	0	6	28	66	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	9	52	39	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: Area fruit stands were doing well with the nicer spring weather. Strawberries finally arrived.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: The weather was typical for this time of year. Crops were being planted, and animals were grazing.

Grays Harbor: Chlorotic-looking corn fields quickly transitioned into an emerald green color as a result of sunny skies and warmer temperatures. Ag producers took advantage of nearly ideal conditions for completing a myriad of farm chores. Christmas tree growers continued monitoring fields for aphid infestations on Grand and Noble fir. Sweet corn growers focused on irrigation as a week with no rain quickly decreased soil moisture. Cannery pea fields looked very good. Strawberry growers reported fruit beginning to ripen with most farms scheduled to open for U-Pick sales next week. Greenhouse tomato growers reported prolific bloom and fruit set due to the increased heat units. Home gardeners were forced to retreat to the shade as temperatures approached 80 degrees over the weekend.

Mason: Irrigation began. The weather was dry and cool.

Pacific: Warmer weather was welcomed by producers who completed a variety of field activities. Even with sunnier conditions, cool spring weather delayed plant growth for cranberries and other small fruits. Overall, production and harvest timing will be affected. Pasture conditions reached their optimum condition. Some early hay operations were underway. Weed control activities continued for raspberries, Christmas trees, and cranberries. Shellfish growers continued harvesting oysters and clams but were concerned with potential seed shortages due to a new bacterial disease that has plagued west coast hatcheries.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions improved greatly with the sunshine. Strawberries were starting to ripen and were being picked in some places in the South Puget Sound area. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: There were fewer showers during the week, and most days were overcast with cooler than normal temperatures. Crops were still about three

weeks behind schedule, and many fields were too wet to plant crops.

Snohomish/North King: A few scattered showers were received during the week, but overall it was a good week for fieldwork. Some fields could not be planted because of standing water. Raspberry blossom was winding down, and other fruits were slowly ripening. Strawberry harvest was very late but should start soon. Main blackberry honey flow should begin soon, as the Himalayan blackberries were coming into full bloom.

Thurston: Summer officially arrived with a bang bringing plenty of sunshine and warmer temperatures throughout the county. Strawberry growers were happy to see rain clouds replaced with sunny skies and warm temperatures which hastened ripening. U-Pick growers reported a strong demand for the first picking as consumers took the opportunity to load up on berries for strawberry shortcake, freezing and preserves. Turfgrass growers were forced to focus on irrigation to replenish soil moisture. Organic vegetable growers reported strong sales at the Olympia Farmer's Market. Blueberry growers reported the season will be later than normal due to the cold, wet spring. Christmas tree growers reported twig aphid infestations in Grand fir. Some growers reported warm temperatures reaching the mid-80s over the weekend resulted in minor needle necrosis on Noble fir. Livestock producers took advantage of nearly ideal conditions for making haylage. Home gardeners were happy to see the warmer weather expedite plant growth in vegetable gardens.

Thurston (2nd Report): The haylage crop was very good. If there is adequate moisture, the second cutting of square bales should begin in August.

Whatcom: Drier, warmer weather aided producer's access to fields that were previously too wet for cultivation. Although berry crops were behind schedule, they were showing healthy growth. Pollination was late due to the cooler temperatures. It was unknown how much berry production will be affected. Weed control was needed in corn fields because corn growth was stunted by prolonged low temperatures.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Spotty light rains were received. Cool, windy conditions continued. Spring wheat plantings were not growing at normal rates due to the cool weather.

Franklin: Temperatures were normal and/or slightly above normal. A short-lived thunderstorm moved through the county at the end of the week and brought limited precipitation and high winds. No damage was reported. Most crops were growing well. Timothy hay was being cut during the week, although some got rained on.

Klickitat: The Vernal Equinox ushered in temperatures in the 80s along with spotty thunderstorms on Saturday. East county growers saw a downpour of three inches. Fruit growing areas received short rain bursts, but no crop damage resulted. Bird problems were a little worse this year for fruit growers, especially cherry. It was the end of the early variety harvest. Other soft fruits were sizing well. Hay producers put in long hours. The first cutting was nearly done and about half of the hay was baled. Warm weather and windy days sped hay drying. Spring seeded barley was 30 percent headed. A lot of cattle were

moved to mountain pastures.

Klickitat (2nd Report): The weather was getting warmer, and the crops were doing fine. Wheat was starting to turn color and most of the first cutting was done.

Yakima: Weather conditions were ideal for the cherry harvest. Daily highs were in the upper 70s to upper 80s, with cool mornings in the 50s and no precipitation. The cherry harvest was well underway. Apples progressed nicely with the fruit size between 45 to 55 mm in the lower Yakima Valley. Green onions and peas were being harvested and sold together with cherries at roadside produce stands. Hops were reaching the top wires of trellis systems.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from five degrees below normal to six degrees above normal with no precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions reported.



Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Moderate temperatures allowed crops to develop normally for areas with adequate moisture. A few areas needed more rain.

Ferry: Hot weather and low subsoil moisture brought dry land alfalfa earlier and shorter in height than normal.

Lincoln: Some moisture was received on Saturday night. The sprinkle settled the dust and lowered temperatures which allowed the winter and spring wheat crops to mature.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Spotty rain was received one day during the week, but more rain was needed as well as cooler temperatures. Some of the drier areas of the county reported it may be too late for precipitation; as grain crops were already significantly lower than average. Some producers had hay on the ground when it rained, but temperatures warmed up afterwards and the wind helped dry the hay out.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A fairly nice weekend ended with a thunderstorm that provided rainfall in varying amounts across the two counties. Hay got wet from the storm, but some producers had a portion of it baled prior to the rain. The weather was windy and should help dry out the wet hay. Crops continued to grow with winter wheat heading out more each day. Pastures were finally starting to look pretty good, but everything seemed to be about two weeks behind schedule.

Stevens: Ten days of clear weather allowed hay producers the opportunity to get started with the first cutting. A thunderstorm Saturday night dampened windrows and bales from north of Colville to Deer Park. Spring crops continued to look good due to substantial moisture during May and June.

Walla Walla: Summer has arrived. Heavy thunderstorms were received over the weekend. Haying was in full swing. After putting the first cutting up early, the second cutting approached. Grain was at the filling stage and looked pretty good. Some high mountain range pastures still had snow. Ranchers found other grazing areas for their livestock.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): It has been a challenging year so far for hay growers. First the cutting was late, with downed hay getting rained on numerous times. Then those who waited were mostly able to get hay down without rain, but overall hay production was behind schedule. Cereal grains looked good throughout the area. The weather was favorable during the week. Saturday night lightning, with short, heavy rain showers was received.

Whitman: Passing rain and seasonal temperatures helped crop conditions. Rainfall totals were near normal for June. If that continues, June will be the first month at or above normal since January.

Weather Statistics
Week of June 16 - 22, 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
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WEST															
Bellingham Intl	43	74	56	-4	45	-21	1	-10	0.16	-0.26	2	26.21	-6.87	79	160
Everett	47	78	58	-3	60	-12	11	-3	0.04	-0.43	3	31.76	-1.67	95	179
Hoquiam	47	65	54	-4	32	-24	0	-7	0.07	-0.39	2	54.86	-9.88	85	188
Kelso	46	84	61	+0	76	+2	16	-4	0.09	-0.38	1	30.82	-12.85	71	131
Olympia	41	83	59	-1	64	-3	14	+2	0.00	-0.36	0	42.18	-5.99	88	160
Seattle-Tacoma	48	83	61	-2	76	-6	16	-5	0.00	-0.35	0	33.00	-2.00	94	158
Shelton	42	81	58	-5	54	-27	7	-14	0.00	-0.40	0	55.07	-7.28	88	159
Tacoma WA AP	41	82	59	-4	63	-18	12	-9	0.00	-0.42	0	30.89	-6.85	82	145
Vancouver WA	49	86	64	+4	100	+19	33	+12	0.00	-0.35	0	35.28	-3.69	91	153
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	43	92	65	+2	108	+13	38	+4	0.00	-0.14	0	6.50	-1.71	79	63
Omak AP	43	86	64	+2	103	+14	33	+2	0.00	-0.28	0	7.25	-5.81	56	59
Stampede Pass	37	74	51	+3	27	+8	4	+4	0.11	-0.54	1	69.62	-7.45	90	185
Wenatchee	49	89	68	+0	129	+4	59	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	4.31	-3.22	57	44
Yakima AP	40	90	65	-2	103	-6	35	-10	0.00	-0.14	0	5.86	-1.47	80	58
NORTHEAST															
Colville	42	88	64	+3	101	+14	33	+4	0.22	-0.11	1	15.84	-3.12	84	115
Deer Park	35	84	59	-5	62	-28	6	-25	0.34	+0.06	1	19.74	+3.06	118	132
Republic	45	83	64	+6	100	+33	30	+13	0.10	-0.25	1	10.86	-2.48	81	97
Spokane AP	45	85	64	+2	103	+9	35	+3	0.24	-0.04	1	16.11	+1.25	108	120
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	45	92	68	-3	127	-10	57	-13	0.00	-0.07	0	4.15	-2.40	63	65
Moses Lake	45	91	67	-4	121	-16	51	-19	0.01	-0.06	1	4.22	-2.33	64	65
Quincy	48	88	67	+0	121	+2	51	-1	0.00	-0.08	0	6.61	-0.51	93	66
Ritzville	39	89	63	+0	96	+1	32	-1	0.18	+0.04	1	9.00	-1.34	87	86
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	46	93	70	-3	144	-11	74	-13	0.04	-0.03	1	3.79	-2.15	64	44
Pasco	41	91	68	-3	126	-16	56	-17	0.21	+0.14	1	6.81	-0.07	99	68
Pullman	41	88	62	+2	86	+12	22	+0	0.23	-0.12	1	16.65	-2.52	87	115
Walla Walla Rgn	47	92	69	+0	135	+2	65	+1	0.10	-0.11	1	13.14	-4.80	73	105
Whitman Mission	42	91	65	-2	110	-6	41	-9	0.13	-0.07	1	11.47	-1.06	92	109
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	48	95	70	+2	138	+11	68	+9	0.04	-0.24	1	7.31	-3.43	68	92

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2007

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2007/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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